

COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**1:30 P.M.****MAY 2, 2006**

Present: Mayor Naugle
Vice Mayor Hutchinson, Commissioners Rodstrom, and Teel
Commissioner Moore joined the meeting at approximately 2:04 p.m.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas
City Attorney - Harry Stewart
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Rod McGowan

I-A – Consolidated Downtown Master Plan Revisions

The City Manager said there is a saying that goes “A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step,” and today is hopefully the first step in a process to address some changes in the Master Plan. A presentation would be made, and then hopefully dialogue will take place regarding policy issues, and then they would begin to frame out a process where they can include other groups such as the DDA in the future.

Marc LaFerrier, Planning and Zoning Director, said the presentation will summarize the updates in the Downtown Master Plan. This is the first public meeting regarding the draft amendments and future meetings would be held with the public regarding details. These are guidelines and not zoning regulations and are flexible while attempting to produce a desired outcome such as items addressing streetscape, building massing, and uses. Other solutions can be considered which still meet the intent of the plan.

Mr. LaFerrier said the Master Plan was adopted two years ago as a watershed of understanding on urban planning and design for the City. It follows some very proven design principles used throughout the world in building cities over many generations. The modifications are a refinement. The first two items address activating the street and creating the urban environment, and the second item was building and massing and how they relate to one another, their size, and the size of towers. The other items on the list are areas they feel are missing in the old plan.

Mr. LaFerrier further said that activating the street has been one of the precipices of the Downtown Master Plan, and examples of were shown for commercial and residential areas. Walk-ups could be incorporated on sides of buildings on secondary streets which create a buffer area. Retail spaces are to be properly designed to encourage pedestrian activity.

Mayor Naugle asked how the floor level could be equal to the sidewalk due to flood regulations. Mr. LaFerrier said the issue needs to be discussed further with the various agencies. This is a desired approach and in some cases the interior of the building will have to be raised. They also are trying to determine how large building retail space should be so it would be meaningful and not just a token.

Mr. LaFerrier said the next area reviewed was building mass. The principles are being followed and it is important to treat the various geographic areas of the Downtown differently. The Downtown core should have more intense use. The floor plate size

would become more slender as the building gets taller in order to provide more light and air on the street, while supplying more dimension to the building itself relative to other buildings in the area. A more dramatic skyline could be created while providing more opportunity for a variety of building forms. Shoulder height refers to the street wall and it should not go higher than nine floors, otherwise it appears too imposing on the street. They are suggesting a height of 25 floors for the Near Downtown area. The Urban Village is a neighborhood which could be dense, but done with a lower scale building type. They are suggesting five floors for the height of the buildings, and a maximum floor plate consisting of 10,000 square feet. The shoulder height should be two to five floors.

Mr. LaFerrier further said in regard to the massing of buildings in the Downtown, they need to see how they affect the perimeter of the Downtown area and relate to surrounding buildings. Slides of various transition areas for the RACC were shown. They are proposing a transition zone approximately 250' in width with lower building heights facing residential areas consisting of approximately 10 or 11 stories.

Commissioner Moore arrived at approximately 1:53 p.m.

Mr. LaFerrier said another important item is the separation between towers because there needs to be a dimension of vertical open space between two buildings either on its own property or on adjacent property. Approximately 30' from the property line, the building would have to step back to create vertical open space of about 60'. The requirement could be met regarding projects approved in the last 18 months, and could be accomplished on less than one-half acre. Good retail streets are not created by placing retail everywhere, and therefore, they want to identify the most appropriate areas for retail. Certain areas such as Las Olas and Riverwalk should have continuous retail, along with reactivating Andrews Avenue. This should continue east and west on Sistrunk Boulevard, but sporadic in other areas such as 6th Street south of the River which would consist of governmental buildings. Third Avenue could have some neighborhood retail.

Mr. LaFerrier further said that storefront designs are important, along with the use of durable materials. Lighting is also something that could be a dramatic addition to the area accentuating architectural features. It is appropriate that two-story retail areas could be developed in the Downtown. The quality of architecture is very important and provides a long-lasting image of the Downtown.

Wayne Jessup, Planning and Zoning, said one of the interesting things discovered during the processing of the plan is that over a period of time as the design and development community became more comfortable with the City's Master Plan, the quality of projects greatly improved. It might be helpful if they created some objective standards that would help identify items that would encourage projects to be designed to meet the intent of the Master Plan. Elements viewed by the public such as facades, style and architecture of the buildings, create the sense of the Downtown area. If the level of quality is raised, then better products would be created. Colored buildings create a unique skyline that is identifiable and becomes a landmark for the City. One way to do that is to look at the tops of the buildings and integrate them into the overall design of the building. Pier 66 has a dominant top and is one of the City's landmarks.

Mr. Jessup said that they need to think differently about buildings over 30' in height and how they relate to the ground. Public areas can be created as part of a project. Building materials for the first two floors should be more creative and dramatic creating a feel for

pedestrians. Another way to activate buildings is through form including balconies, overhangs, and capturing sunlight with a design of buildings that are sympathetic to the local environment. This provides form to the building and gives it different looks on different sides relating to the climate, while defining it with a certain part of the country. They are suggesting that historic buildings be respected by neighboring structures in relation to its form and mass. Taller buildings provide different roofscapes which should be as attractive as the elevations of the building. Many new buildings have amenities on top and screen equipment better.

Mr. LaFerrier said further that there are a series of updates in the Master Plan which recognize public planning and development initiatives occurring in the Downtown. Also, principles are to be defined for each planning study. The Arts and Cultural District is an encouraging one because it shows the area west of the railroad tracks has been transformed into something different offering various cultural facilities. The Government Campus has been recognized and development principles will be created for it. The Flagler Arts and Technology Village included in the Master Plan would be strengthened with additional language. The Judicial Campus will be south of the River, and the River Plan will be recognized. The River is the "blood of life" for the Downtown Core. Guidelines will be created to deal with private development along the River. Riverwalk will be created into something more unique and various sections treated differently from one another. Each segment along the River has its own personality and differences should be recognized. The 60' setback required along the Riverwalk is under utilized and in retail areas dining segments could be added which would be similar to Lincoln Road in Miami Beach.

Mr. LaFerrier said an important item is how to access Riverwalk because there are various ways to accentuate the plan. Shoulder heights could be lowered and then stepped back, and instead of orienting towers parallel to the River, they could be perpendicular to the River. This would prevent the "canyon" affect being felt at this time. Other miscellaneous items to be addressed are parking. In the RACC-C zoning area because there are no parking regulations at this time. A study would be done and then recommendations provided. They also want to allow for tandem parking in the Downtown. Other items are building over streets or alleys while respecting the existing patterns and grids, along with public spaces. In the Downtown, the street is part of the public space where individuals interact.

Mr. LaFerrier said they are attempting to ensure that light would not spill over and become a problem, and therefore, several new guidelines will be proposed to minimize glare. Noise pollution will also be addressed. Burying powerlines will also improve aesthetics.

Commissioner Teel said she is concerned that people are sometimes searching for shade and canvas awnings are very attractive, but it appears they are leaning more towards solid materials. Mr. LaFerrier said that shading for pedestrians is crucial and canvas awnings have been used in areas very successfully, but they can also be problematic in regard to maintenance. The awnings need to be durable while still remaining light and airy and still fit in with the architecture of the building.

Commissioner Teel said that tinted windows are being discouraged to continue interaction. Mr. Jessup said that technology exists today whereby windows can be created that reject the heat and are insulated, but are clear. Commissioner Teel asked

about the cost for such windows. Mr. Jessup said there is a cost difference, but if it is pro-rated it was not all that much and it creates more interaction with the street.

Commissioner Teel said regarding the activity on the River sometimes the larger boats do block the view, and she asked if they had considered restrictive docking. Mr. LaFerrier said they want to create a River plan that would manage such issues.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said the DDA requested they be provided one hour before the Commission's next Conference Meeting for a one-on-one discussion.

Mayor Naugle asked what was the next step regarding this matter. Mr. LaFerrier said they want to hold some public workshops and receive input, and then it would come back before the Commission before going to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Naugle further said that there would be a joint meeting with the DDA.

The City Manager said whatever the Commission decides regarding the length of process for this matter, this is tied into the 3,000 units, and therefore, the Commission would need to decide if they want these changes to apply to the 3,000 units, and if those units should be available now or after the process is completed.

Commissioner Moore asked how the process would take place regarding these changes. Mr. LaFerrier said they want to make a presentation to the DDA, and then schedule a public workshop. Commissioner Moore asked if there would be more than one workshop scheduled. Mr. LaFerrier said these changes are an update to the Master Plan that was done three years ago. Commissioner Moore said these changes require a great deal of input, and he is not certain that one workshop would be sufficient.

Mayor Naugle said there would be four meetings if they followed the proposed course. There would be a joint meeting with the DDA, a public workshop, a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board, and then the item would be brought back before the City Commission.

Commissioner Moore said they are talking about the riverfront and the concepts to allow the River to be utilized in a manner the people can enjoy, but the development community would have to be induced to follow the guidelines. The public would also have to buy into these changes. If the Downtown is the City's economic engine, along with the beach, then they need to find a way to emphasize to the people what the City's mission is which is a master plan. He did not think that opportunity would be provided in the suggested process.

Commissioner Hutchinson said if the City wants the 3,000 units on line, then they need to decide what process is to be established so they can move forward.

Commissioner Moore said he wants the 3,000 units, but the community needs to understand what is taking place. Mr. LaFerrier said that they had not yet set a schedule for the public meetings. Commissioner Moore said there should be more public input.

Mayor Naugle said he is comfortable with the process outlined earlier, and the public workshop could be held on a Saturday at the Performing Arts Center.

Action: A joint workshop with the Downtown Development Authority at 12:30 pm prior to a future conference meeting was requested. (consensus) There will be one general workshop. The matter will return to the Commission before being presented to the Planning & Zoning Board and then back to the Commission for final adoption.

I-B – Utilization of Optional Sales Tax Revenue – South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Initiative

Commissioner Moore said he met with Mr. Cummings in reference to this matter, and the optional penny that could be used for transportation. He said no one appears to be asking for that “penny” since they realize the impact of what it can do regarding this matter. Some municipal entities signed a resolution of support for the additional “penny,” which were Miramar and Pembroke Pines. He asked if the City should consider the “penny,” and should it only be used for transportation.

Mayor Naugle said he asked about the priorities for spending the money because he did not want to endorse an extra penny sales tax until he knew where the money was going to go. A presentation is to be made to the City regarding the matter.

Commissioner Moore said the City might want to direct how the money should be spent. He feels some of the monies should go toward affordable housing and open green space, along with transportation.

Mayor Naugle said he discussed the matter with other mayors, and the current proposal would have 10% of the funds going to the municipal governments for transportation. The other split is 36% to the cities and 64% to the counties. The argument could be that housing along the transit line would relieve traffic and be considered a transportation expenditure.

Commissioner Moore said allowing only one option is not utilizing the opportunities presented by the additional regressive tax. If there is to be a tax as this one, there should be other things given to the public. He agreed with the consensus of the mayors that there should be another option from what is being offered. The City should review options that address issues important to the citizens. He feels more education as to what happens with those dollars should be provided to everyone involved. He said the monies could also go towards rehabilitating historic properties. If such research is done, they could then go to the League of Cities, and then other municipal entities might understand they want some of their own issues addressed with the monies. He said transportation is important and mass transit is a void in this County and should be addressed, but there are other issues such as attainable housing, green space and historic renovations that could be addressed with those monies.

Commissioner Teel said that at the last MPO meeting the question of how these monies should be spent arose, and it was said that within 10 days additional information would be forthcoming on the subject. Also, one of the County Commissioners said they are not sure this should be placed on the ballot since they want a new government campus. The only transportation that would solve the problem is light rail, but the extra penny would probably not be enough. A certain amount could be targeted for buildings along the rail line which could serve as the beginning of affordable housing. She further said there is a serious need for transportation and they need to get moving on the project.

Questions are being asked who gets the funds, how much, and what are the monies to be used for.

Mayor Naugle said the people should decide where their tax dollars go, but to accomplish what Commissioner Moore is suggesting there would have to be a separate municipal tax imposed and not a County tax.

Commissioner Moore said he wants to deal with facts, but having the bonding capability of a half-cent provides more opportunity. He said they need to discover what impact the half-cent would have on transportation. The light rail concept is being held onto, but if the monies are picked away at, then it would dilute the impact of the bonding ability.

Mayor Naugle said they are showing this as a way that local funds are needed to attract Federal funds.

Commissioner Moore said that Miami-Dade County has a dedicated dollar for transportation, and therefore, they receive Federal funding.

Mayor Naugle asked if the City should invite the group promoting this tax to a meeting and request back-up information to be provided.

Commissioner Moore said he wants to obtain the information first so staff could evaluate the impact of the half-cent, and then the City Commission discuss the issue. Then, they could meet and make a proposal.

Mayor Naugle asked if in the meantime the transportation tax should proceed forward, but a larger percentage be given to the cities. Commissioner Moore said at this time he does not feel anyone should speak in the positive regarding this "penny" until more information is provided in order to see if other options exist for consideration.

The City Manager said the study would be to look at the potential revenue of the half-cent, and then the Commission could decide on the categories for the monies to be spent.

Mayor Naugle said the Sales Tax Division should have figures as to what funds would be collected in Fort Lauderdale in comparison to the other cities. If monies are given based on population, then the percentage would be 10%, but he feels the actual collection would be higher.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION AT 2:41 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 2: 58 P.M.

II-A—March 2006 Monthly Financial Report

Mayor Naugle said that overtime has increased but much of that is due to storm related clean-up.

Action: Approved as presented.

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at approximately 3:02 p.m.

III – B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Audit Committee

Action: Deferred.

Board of Adjustment

Action: Deferred

Cemeteries Advisory Board

Commissioner Moore recommended Richard Kurtz to the Cemeteries Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Charter Revision Board

Vice Mayor Hutchinson recommended that Dr. Ronald Bright be appointed to the Charter Revision Board.

Mayor Naugle recommended that Chris Fertig be reappointed to the Charter Revision Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Community Appearance Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Community Services Board

Action: Deferred.

Education Advisory Board

Mayor Naugle recommended that Dr. Leola McCoy be appointed to the Education Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon

Action: Deferred

Board of Commissioners, City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority

Mayor Naugle recommended that Ham English be appointed to the Board of Commissioners, City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Marine Advisory Board

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended that Ryan Campbell and Alec Anderson be appointed to the Marine Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board

Commissioner Teel recommended Brad Hubert be appointed to the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Planning and Zoning Board

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended that Steve Glassman be reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

IV -- Commission Reports

Federal Highway US-1 Master Plan

Commissioner Teel said that on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., there will be the kick-off of the Federal Highway US-1 Master Plan at Imperial Point Hospital Auditorium. She said there will be two segments. From 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 will be Sunrise Boulevard to Oakland Park Boulevard, and then from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will be Oakland Park to the City Limits of Pompano Beach.

Air & Sea Show

Commissioner Teel said there is a lot of equipment from the WaterWorks 2011 Project at Sunrise Intracoastal at the gate, and she is concerned that such equipment would be left in the area where residents would be entering and exiting due to the Air and Sea Show. Staff will make sure the equipment is removed.

Fire Hydrants

Commissioner Teel said there will be new fire hydrants due to the WaterWorks 2011 Project.

Code Violations

Commissioner Rodstrom said one of the areas in the northwest has a problem with dumping which is leading to code enforcement violations. The South Middle River area from January to April had 500 code violations. The Northwest-Progresso area has given a list of 100 potential code violations. She said since the close of the transfer station and a reduction in bulk pick-up, these problems appear to be increasing. She asked what the remedy is since the services have been decreased.

Commissioner Moore returned to the meeting at approximately 3:06 p.m.

Vice Mayor Teel said the object of reducing bulk trash to once a month was because properties could not be cited since there was a pick-up every two weeks and trash was left sitting on the curbs.

Commissioner Rodstrom suggested that something could be worked out for an increase in bulk-trash pick-up for certain areas before hurricane season begins.

Mayor Naugle said the trash transfer station increased dumping throughout the City. Commissioner Rodstrom asked where materials could be taken to. Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that a trash transfer station is being operated by the County.

Commissioner Moore said they discussed increasing the tipping fee for the trash transfer station, but the new rate was to be the same as the rate for the private sector. Therefore, the City was not offering any type of service that would encourage individuals to use the City's station. Another location was suggested for the trash transfer station on SR 84, but nothing has been implemented.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked if the problem could be remedied possibly with an extra bulk trash day for about three months in certain areas.

Mayor Naugle said possibly publicizing the available stations would help reduce the dumping. He said further he would support the re-opening of the station because it was a way to cut down on dumping, but the majority of the Commission was not in favor of doing so.

Commissioner Moore said the problem is the City does not enforce their own laws, and once recommendations are made nothing happens.

Commissioner Rodstrom said the City should provide the service so individuals will not be caught dumping.

Commissioner Moore said people are being hired to remove garbage and trash and then those people are dumping it throughout the City. He said an example should be set by placing names of individuals in newspapers who have violated the law. He feels this is the method to be used to gain control of the situation, along with publicizing the location of the legal dumping stations.

Commissioner Rodstrom said she would pursue this matter until changes are made to resolve the situation.

Commissioner Moore said it does not appear they are all working together in order to address this problem. He believes education on the matter will help remedy the problem.

Commissioner Rodstrom agreed. Commissioner Moore said he wants there to be policing of the sites where trash is being dumped.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that trash is a problem in District IV and it does not appear to be getting any better. Police officers should go through the areas and cite the individuals who are violating the law.

Mayor Naugle said there is a high percentage of rentals in this City and absentee landlords are part of the problem.

Commissioner Rodstrom said the City should be more pro-active regarding this issue.

Commissioner Moore asked if an extra bulk pick-up could be scheduled prior to the beginning of hurricane season, and asked staff to provide information regarding the cost impact. Commissioner Rodstrom said that could then be advertised throughout the neighborhoods. Commissioner Moore said the trash transfer station had a negative impact on the community.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said she is concerned that by offering a service without enforcement would not help solve the issue.

The City Manager said the NEAT Program works well and problem areas have been identified. The City Attorney's recommendation is to try the program in another area before they go back to the same area. The issue is corrected through a teamwork approach. The vast majority of the properties involved absentee landlords who are exploiting their tenants at the expense of the City and the neighborhood.

Commissioner Rodstrom said she is not a supporter of the NEAT Program and prefers to take a more humanistic approach to the matter. She believes in additional maintenance and service being provided by the City.

Commissioner Teel said that is true in regard to a long-term solution, but something needs to be done before the hurricane season and there is no time to be sensitive.

Commissioner Moore said the landlords are evicting tenants and putting trash on the streets. He further said the results from the NEAT Program were astounding, and it showed that absentee landlords are the culprits. People need to be educated and that would help remedy the problem.

Staff would provide further information regarding the NEAT Program to Commissioner Rodstrom. Commissioner Rodstrom said that the information should also be provided in other languages.

Sistrunk Boulevard

Commissioner Moore said he does not want this matter placed on tonight's agenda. The County promised an opportunity would be provided for public input, and that has not yet occurred. It is not fair that the matter be addressed without first receiving public input. He asked that this be removed from tonight's agenda, and that City staff meet with the County, and that a public workshop be held at the African-American Research Library. Both plans should be presented and meantime additional research can be done. They

are about to lose \$7.5 Million from Federal funds, and he wants facts regarding these funds. If the County insists that they would not do what the residents requested, then they need to show methodology as to how those funds would be replaced. He did not want the City to take a position regarding the matter without first receiving sufficient information.

Mayor Naugle said he promised the County Mayor that this item would be discussed tonight.

Commissioner Moore said the County promised that public input would be provided, and that has not been done.

Commissioner Teel said it is her understanding that a presentation would be made tonight from the County.

Commissioner Moore said a discussion should not take place until all information is supplied. He said the Mayor should write a letter to the County explaining that public input was not provided as promised.

Mayor Naugle said they tried to designate Commissioner Moore to meet with County Commissioner Rodstrom and see what issues they agreed upon and which ones they disagreed on, and then the items would be presented to the Commission tonight and a decision would be made.

Commissioner Moore said he has not met with the Commissioner and a plan has not yet been presented to him. He said this is a public project.

Commissioner Teel said a presentation should be made this evening since it already is on the agenda. The Commission is not obligated to vote on anything, and public input can be received.

Commissioner Moore said the Commission should agree that information could be presented, and then a public meeting would be held.

Mayor Naugle said he will not agree to anything until he hears what is being presented this evening.

700 SW 2 Court

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said a fire occurred at 700 SW 2 Court, and also the house at 712 SW 2 Court is falling down and becoming an eyesore for the community. She asked for the Building Official to move forward in having those houses demolished.

The City Attorney said homeless individuals are in the area of the houses and have lived in the buildings. Fines on these properties total over \$500,000. The property was foreclosed on and summary judgment has been granted. Three hearings have been held for a motion to reconsider of the foreclosure, and the Judge did grant that since allegations were made of improper notice. Another hearing would be held with a proper notice. The Building Official has the authority if these are unsafe structures to have them demolished and then a lien would be placed on the property.

Art Space

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said she wants to do a walk-on regarding Art Space because they want their bond released, and in lieu of that they would pay the City \$221,000 in cash.

The City Attorney said there is a bond issue and Lennar had damaged a Historic Building they were to preserve, and it has been estimated that \$221,811.66 would be needed to repair the structure. The bond still exists and the property is to be given to Art Space as part of the Art Space Project, and they will put up a cash bond to replace the surety bond. The City is not willing to lessen their position.

Mayor Naugle said this matter could be discussed this evening.

Commissioner Moore asked if this pertains to construction costs. The City Attorney confirmed. Vice Mayor Hutchinson said Art Space would do the work and not the City.

Mayor Naugle said they have to make sure the City is protected and that the building will be restored.

The City Attorney said the restoration work being done by Art Space goes far beyond the damaged portion. Commissioner Moore said that construction costs have increased over the last couple of years. The City Attorney said they are accepting a better deal than what they have now because instead of the payment and performance bond, the City would receive cash. When they are in the position to substitute the payment and performance bond with the monies they are to receive from the County for their project, then the City would return the cash in exchange for a similar bond.

Mayor Naugle asked if it is a \$2 Million bond for the project to be completed. The City Attorney said another bond in the amount of \$221,000 will be received to fix what has to be fixed. The payment and performance bond they get will be for the County's project.

CVC Project

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said there will be a CVC project this Saturday at the Fort Lauderdale Women's Club. Interior painting will be done and they will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Trolleys

Commissioner Teel said that on May 11, 2006 at Noon the new trolleys would be placed in front of the library. She said further that the web site www.suntrolley.com provides a lot of information.

Building Department Permits

Mayor Naugle said there is a backlog of permitting in the Building Department, and he spoke to the City Manager to try and resolve the problem.

The City Manager said there is a walk-on item at tonight's meeting regarding inspection services, and the expedited review approved by the Commission would be taking effect.

Valerie Bohlander, Building Department Director, said the expedited process will kick-off on May 22, 2006. She asked the Commission to consider the walk-on item being presented this evening.

Mayor Naugle asked if extra revenue is available due to increased permitting activities to pay for such service. Ms. Bohlander said she would not call it extra revenue, but they are concentrating on permits needed by individuals to secure their homes before the next hurricane season begins. There were 2,500 roofing permits issued in the last quarter in comparison to 511 last year during the same quarter. They are not being able to proceed to grant permits for the big ticket items. The expedited program will assist in getting the Department back on track, and the inspection services contract is more critical for day-to-day operations. This has been termed as the "perfect storm." Staff is working diligently in an attempt to keep things on track.

Mayor Naugle asked if it would help alleviate the problem if the Department was open on Sundays or Saturdays and operated by extra individuals. Ms. Bohlander said the clerking aspect of issuing a permit is very detailed and a temporary individual cannot do it because it involves a 6-8 month learning process. The Department has brought in temporary clerks working behind the scenes so knowledgeable and experienced individuals could continue working on the front lines to keep things moving.

Mayor Naugle asked if possibly retirees could assist. Ms. Bohlander said she is using such individuals but their time is limited.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked what was the time frame for the proposed contract.

Kirk Buffington, Procurement Services, said it is a one-year contract with four one-year options.

Mayor Naugle asked if such individuals would be used as needed. Ms. Bohlander confirmed.

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned that the City is having difficulty in finding inspectors. Ms. Bohlander said they are having a hard time with the Board of Rules and Appeals. Broward County has an administrative code attached to the Florida Statute which is very restrictive. Commissioner Moore asked what kind of guarantees are being put in place so that when inspections are done, the City will not be challenged because they had used someone who was not properly inspecting the permits.

The City Attorney said he is not sure what guarantees are being put in place.

Mr. Buffington said the contract requires that the inspectors will be appropriately licensed and permitted. Since this is in-service, the City does not have a firm handle on the amount of work being given. Staff is recommending a dual award and the necessary individuals will be provided to meet the needs of the City. Retired inspectors from all over the southeast are being hired by the contractors. They have the ability to terminate for convenience or if the contractors are not responding in accordance to the

requirements of the RFP, there can be a termination. He is confident about the two contractors being hired.

City Commission Meeting

Mayor Naugle asked for the Commission to consider changing the Commission meeting date from May 16, 2006 to May 23, 2006 because he has been invited to go to Washington, D.C. to meet the Prime Minister of Australia. The matter would be brought forward at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Moore said the items regarding affordable housing and the Las Olas Appeal should be placed on the agenda for a regularly scheduled Commission meeting because they are very important, and not put on the agenda of a differently scheduled meeting.

The City Attorney said a resolution would be presented tonight to move the meeting to May 23, 2006.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson asked if the two items for discussion could be placed on the agenda for the Commission's first meeting in June.

V – City Manager's Report

None given.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:52 p.m.